



Water Supply District of Acton

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WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT OF ACTON (PWS 2002000) IMPORTANT WATER QUALITY NOTICE

Our water system recently violated a monthly drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, people with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. During the month of November 2013, two of our routine distribution samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one sample may confirm positive for the presence of coliform bacteria during any month. Upon notification of this, we collected repeat samples at these locations and at locations nearby. Four of these samples confirmed positive as well prompting corrective actions to be taken. The cause of the detections remains unknown, however the latest round of repeat samples have shown these sites to be free of coliform bacteria.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

We are notifying our customers by providing this notice, posting it in public places around town, notifying the Board of Health and working with the Department of Environmental Protection. Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. Actions we took in response to this information include flushing the water system, increasing chlorination, and conducting inspections of our facilities in the vicinity of the sampling site.

For further information please contact Matthew Mostoller

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